

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Edington Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, Edington on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mesdames Greening, Watts, Pike, O'Donoghue, Henning and Dorgan and Messrs King, Forward, Johns and Swabey and Mrs Wickham (WC); and one member of the public

Apologies were received from Mr Hardman

1. **The Minutes** of the Meeting held on the 9th December 2024 were adopted as read and signed

2. Matters Arising

a. Manor House Spring. Mrs Watts reported that the problem had been resolved

3. Precept and Finances

a. The PC needed to consider the Precept requirement for 2025/2026. This would be the PC levy under the Council Tax. The Chairman, Vice chairman and Clerk had met to prepare a Budget and Statement of Finances which had been copied to all Councillors. It was noted that the balance in hand to date was £55700 but there were other expenses yet to be invoiced to the PC for the current year which were noted in the consideration of the Statement of Finances in (f) below.

b. Interest rates had remained at a higher level during the year and to date £455.41 had been received compared with £350.27 for the whole of the previous year

c. The PC considered Grants and Donations for the current year and it was agreed that the following be made:-

- i. £50 to the Independent Living Centre (Carer Support)
- ii. £50 to Dorothy House
- iii. £50 to Bobby Van
- iv. £50 to Splash
- v. £50 to Youth Action
- vi. £50 to CAB
- vii. £50 to Edington Brass
- viii. £50 to Wiltshire Search and Rescue
- ix. £50 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance

d. The PC agreed as Establishment expenses the following grants be made:-

- i. £100 to Parish News
- ii. £30 to Three Villages Minibus

e. The following invoices had been received:-

- i. Refund Mr Forward Website Host charges £16.20
- ii. CPRE Subscription £60
- iii. Ideal Grounds Maintenance additional cuts £342.66
- iv. Refund Clerk SLCC annual subscription £110
- v. Parish Hall hire October to December £60
- vi. Playdale for replacement parts for Rota Bounce £401.77 including VAT.

f. The Statement of Finances and Budget as proposed was then considered.

- i. The PC was unanimous in its view that it was essential that healthy reserves be maintained in order to provide the facilities that were from time to time identified for the village without having to borrow the money or raise the precept to levels that some may consider unacceptable. Resources needed to

remain available to cover not only longstanding needs such as verge protection and the proposed Permissive path from the Car Park to the Kissing Gate just beyond No. 41 Westbury Road but other unplanned matters. It was noted that the PC had been fortunate in the past for many projects to be assisted by grants and donations received but these could never be guaranteed. Ordinary expenses were increasing with cost of living and inflationary pressures particularly; and the cost of grounds maintenance was significant. In addition there were continuing concerns about traffic calming measures which would be subject to a significant contribution by the PC. In addition there would be the need to monitor and upgrade, as necessary, PF equipment especially following the anticipated completion of the land swap. The PC then considered the draft Budget in detail and decided, in the event, not to increase the precept but maintain it at £21000 noting that there were currently considerable reserves as a result of the delays in the PF swap and CIL payments received that remained largely unspent. This would give for a Band D property a Council Tax of £62.15 pa (£1.20pw) compared with £62.04 pa (£1.19) for 2024/2025).

- ii. The Clerk's Salary would continue to be in accordance with NALC guidelines and Local Government scales which had been agreed for this current year
- iii. After further discussion it was proposed by Mr King seconded by Mrs Dorgan and carried unanimously that the Precept be made in the sum of £21000 and that the Grants and Donations listed above and the invoices referred to in paragraph (e) above be paid.
- g. A donation of £2000 had been received from Edington Station Yard

4. Planning

- a. Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs Pike would continue her attempts to contact the WC officers involved; and Mr King had also spoken to Mrs Wickham to see if she could possibly arrange a meeting with them.
- b. The following applications had been received and there were no objections to any of them:-
 - i. PL/2024/10080/FUL Removal of existing mobile home and erection of one single story one bedroom dwelling at Hedgerow Stables Court Lane Bratton for Dawn Pople
 - ii. PL/2024/10165/TPO Hornbeam at Beech House 6 Tinhead Rd has been withdrawn
 - iii. PL/2024/07840/FUL Amended plan and additional information have been received
 - iv. PL/2024/11625/TCA Yew tree – crown lift to give clearance of 1.5m over garage roof; reduce crown spread from house by 2.5m and balance and shape remainder of crown Katalpa tree – remove secondary stem; lift crown to give head clearance over neighbouring decking and balance and shape remainder of crown at YewTree Cottage 6 Charlton Hill for Mr Steve Russell

5. Policing

- a. SID. The latest data had been circulated confirming that excessive speed was still a regular issue at the west end of the village. Mr Forward confirmed that there was no available funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office for another SID, but that the PC had sufficient funds including CIL monies. He would investigate sites.

It was also agreed to purchase a replacement transformer for the existing SID
b. The PCC had a new Police and Crime Plan

6. Playfield.

- a. Mrs Dorgan reported that the lighting up of the Christmas tree had been very successful with the Edington Brass band and thanks were expressed to the Three Daggers for the tree and the refreshments.
- b. Land Swap. The latest draft of the Heads of Terms document was awaited for consideration by the PC
- c. Equipment Repairs. A quote had been received, via Mr Hollburn-Thorburn, from Playdale for the replacement of the parts for the Rota Bounce £401.77 including VAT. This was agreed and is included in 3e above
- d. Permission was given for the Morris Dancers to use the PF on the 21st June
- e. Moles. It was agreed that Mrs Dorgan would seek out a mole catcher to try and deal with them

7. Wiltshire Council (WC) Report

- a. Land at The Weir. Mrs Wickham reported that the current thinking was to sell it for a self build
- b. Devolution Priority Programme. Mrs Wickham also reported that Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset were seeking to create a significant area to make a bid to be included in a mayoral led regional grouping
- c. She also explained that it was her intention to stand down at the next WC election

8. Highway matters/Footpaths/LFHIG

- a. Parish Hall footpath and Parsonage Lane. From discussions with WC officers it was hoped that work would soon be carried out
- b. Village Litter Pick. This was fixed for 15th March
- c. The next LHFHIG : 23rd January 2025

9. Car Park.

- a. In anticipation of better weather Mr King was planning to make progress with the fencing and steps for the proposed Permissive path.
- b. The left hand gate needed repair or replacement and this led to a discussion about the need to keep the CP in good repair. It was agreed that Mrs Henning would be the councillor taking on that role. She agreed to investigate and report back

10. Burial ground. A request had been received from a Mrs Waddington to be allowed to be buried in the BG. Her only connection had been living for a time in Steeple Ashton but also a regular attender at the Edington Music Festival and other services. Her application was agreed and the fee to be charged for an "out of village" burial would be £500

11. Correspondence

- a. BKVC. Mrs Wickham said that she was going to be a judge for the BKVC and that she was quite prepared to front an application for Edington to take part this year

b. WALC Circular

12. News items

Consideration was given to items to be included.

13. Date of next Meeting

This was fixed for Monday 10th February 2025.